

# WAHDAT



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JULY 09 / RAJAB 1430 AH

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## HADITH OF THE MONTH

*"Rajab is the month for seeking forgiveness, so seek forgiveness from Allah (swt)".*

- Prophet Mohammad (pbuh)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor is a new section we will be adding in Wahdat which will include our readers comments/opinions on previous Wahdat articles. If you would like to contribute to this section and/or contribute any article please email [director.publications@iec-houston.org](mailto:director.publications@iec-houston.org)

We appreciate your input and contributions.

## GEORGE GALLOWAY

George Galloway, a member of the British Parliament and an avid supporter of the rights of the Palestinians, joined us at IEC on Tuesday June 16th in an effort to raise money for the victims of Gaza who were massacred at the hands of the Zionists in Operation Cast Lead starting during the holy season of Christmas and Hanukkah.

The bombardment lasted for 22 days and left the Gazans with near 1400 dead and many more wounded and injured for life. While the atrocities by the Israeli war machine were going on, George Galloway was busy soliciting humanitarian aid from the sympathizers in Britain. He took a massive convoy of aid across the northern countries of Africa, crossed into Gaza through the Rafah border and delivered the supplies to the government officials. He has been working relentlessly for 35 years to rectify the



wrong done by his country back in mid 1900s when the British Mandate was lifted and the Zionists were given a free reign. Just as he did earlier in the year, he is determined to head back to Gaza with a much loftier goal of supplying humanitarian aid to the same people who continue to suffer the wrath of the Zionists. To serve that end, he is touring the US extensively and will be leaving for Egypt on July 4th as a symbolic day for independence for the people of Palestine.



IEC is proud to have hosted Mr. Galloway and supports his efforts to fight for justice in the Holy Land. It has kept the issue alive most notably by organizing the annual Day of Quds rally in Houston for over a decade.

For more information on how you can help this cause please visit the following website.

<http://www.vivapalestina-us.org/>

## TALKING CENTS WITH AN ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVE

Blog by Hujjat al-Islam Ghulam Hurr Shabbiri in the Houston Chronicle (chron.com)

Drop in housing, mass layoffs, credit card debts, bankruptcies, etc. are all around us. Our society has been engulfed in a storm that it didn't fathom. On one end, we see CEOs making billions off of taxpayers while on the other end, we have indigent struggling to survive a day at a time.

In the world today, humanity is in search of social and economic justice. In pursuit of these goals, human societies throughout history have struggled and given many sacrifices. After the struggle, many of the systems that were adopted by the various societies were thought to be just, fair and equitable, but in fact they were based on oppression and injustice.

For example, people regarded Communism as a system that would provide happiness and well-being for all, and in which justice would be a mainstay. With the passage of time, it became clear that Communism is in fact based on injustice, where a small segment has a dominant role while the majority works as slaves. Communism and Marxism are now in the museum of history and one sees no significant achievement of such systems.

Capitalism, which is still existent today, also claims to provide humanity with happiness, equality and liberty. Like Communism, Capitalism has given an elite position to only a small section of society. The poor and struggling majority of society has not seen any benefit from this. Day by day, social problems seem to be increasing. The recession that has enveloped many countries has affected all segments of society. At one time, the possibility of recession was dismissed as impossible, but now even the economic experts and government policy makers have admitted that the system is failing the people.

Nations that were regarded as developed and progressive in their economic and social affairs are failing and falling. The capitalism system does not seem to have the capability to alleviate society's problems, much less help other nations. If we look at the situation from a bird's eye view, we see that humanity has been in search of a system that provides social and economic justice. A look towards Islam shows that its system is based on balance and justice in ALL aspects of life; from the individual life to the social life; from the house to the society.

For example, if anyone has to go to court to be a witness, Islam has placed a condition that the person's justice must be established prior to him giving testimony. In the mundane affair of a marriage ceremony, Islam requires that the person witnessing the ceremony be just. Islam has emphasized on justice in the household: justice in relations between father and son, son and father, husband and wife, and wife and husband. Islam requires justice in ALL social and economic affairs.

In the economic affairs, Islam has laws and regulations that prohibit usury. The Holy Quran says, "God has permitted trading and forbid Usury." and elsewhere "God destroys Usury and nourishes charities." (2:275). The result is that Islamic banking system is immune from a recession driven by the greed of the banks and other controlling powers. Even the Vatican has praised the ethical policies of the Islamic economic system. <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601092&sid=aOsOLE8uiNOq&refer=italy>

In the government affairs, Islam provides shining guidelines for administrators to implement a progressive society based on justice. The advices provided by Imam Ali ibn

Abu Talib, the successor of Prophet Muhammad, were so enlightening that the United Nations included them in their development report.

<http://www.miftah.org/Doc/Reports/CompleteEnglish.pdf> (page 82 and 97)

One of Imam Ali's advice is: "Choose the best among your people to administer justice among them. Choose someone who does not easily give up, who is unruffled by enmities, someone who will not persist in wrong doings, who will not hesitate to pursue right once he knows it, someone whose heart knows no greed, who will not be satisfied with a minimum of explanation without seeking the maximum of understanding, who will be the most steadfast when doubt is cast, who will be the least impatient in correcting the opponent, the most patient in pursuing the truth, the most stern in meting out judgment, someone who is unaffected by flattery and not swayed by temptation and these are but few." [http://www.human-rights-in-islam.co.uk/A\\_United\\_Nations\\_Imam\\_Ali\\_ibn\\_abi\\_talib.htm](http://www.human-rights-in-islam.co.uk/A_United_Nations_Imam_Ali_ibn_abi_talib.htm)

A notable Christian writer from Lebanon in his book, Voice of Human Justice, wrote about Imam Ali ibn Abi Talib, "There is no chapter in the charter of the U.N. which is not running parallel to the rules laid down by Ali. In fact better and more useful things are found in the instructions given by him."

[http://maaref-foundation.com/english/lib/pro\\_ahl/imam01\\_ali/human\\_voice/index.htm](http://maaref-foundation.com/english/lib/pro_ahl/imam01_ali/human_voice/index.htm)

sn't it time to remove the veils that the media has placed on Islam and search for the pristine Islam?

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<http://www.chron.com/channel/houstonbelief/commons/thehiddentruth.html>

## INTERVIEW WITH MOULANA SHARIATI

### In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

By now, many of our community members have had a chance to meet our guest, Moulana Shariati. We asked him a few questions for the purpose of getting to know him better, the translation of which is below:

Bismillah Ar-Rahman Ar-Raheem

Yours truly, Mohammad Hasan Shariati, son of Mohammad Hosein, was born in 1323 AP (1944 AD) in Torbat-e-Haidariye, Iran. Between 1341 and 1346 [18 to 23 years of age], I began my preliminary religious studies in the Howza Elmiye of Mashhad. I then transferred to the Howza Elmiye of Qom to pursue higher studies, where I remain till this day. During both the pre-revolutionary and post-revolutionary periods, Alhamdulillah with the aid of the sword of speech and the blade of logic, I defended the sanctity of Islam and Quran. And now, by the grace of God, I am at the service of the Iranian brothers and sisters, under the leadership of Moulana Shabbiri. I am currently busy teaching a few fiqh classes, having tafseer lessons, speaking on the mimbar, answering possible questions and traveling to neighboring cities. I am thankful for the perpetual, active and sincere presence of the Iranian brothers and sisters, and I am also thankful to the people who are conducting this interview and will be publishing it in the newsletter.

### When asked about prominent teachers that the Moulana had while pursuing his education he replied:

In Mashhad I attended the lessons of the Late Ayatollah Neyshaboori, Ayatollah Hojat Hashemi, Ayatollah Salehi and the Late Ayatollah Maghami. When I entered the Howza Elmiye of Qom, I attended Makasib under the guidance of the Late Ayatollah Fadhel Lankarani, and I also studied under Ayatollah Sobhani, Ayatollah Noori. After that, I studied Kharej under the guidance of the Late Ayatollah Fadhel Lankarani, and I also studied under the guidance of Ayatollah Vahid Khorasani with emphasis on fiqh and usool, with over twenty years of study of Kharej under his guidance. My expertise would include fiqh, literature, tafseer,

loghat, history and mimbar(public speaking).

### So, what message does he have for the Muslim community of Houston?

Here we have both resalat (propagation of Islam) as well as responsibility for our actions. The responsibilities of the actions pertain to each individual, so if they wish they can be involved a lot or if they wish they could be involved less. But our resalat is such that we have to display Islam through our actions as the Prophet (saww), the Imams, and Allah want. Imam Sadeq (a.s) mentioned: 'Koono lana zayna, va la takoono alayna shayna' - 'Be an adornment for us, not a disgrace upon us.' If our ladies take care of their hijab and both the brothers and sisters keep in mind the taqwa in the society, if we all take part in the Jum'a and jama'at prayers, and if people sought to benefit from the scholars including myself and Moulana Shabbiri who is responsible for leading this center, this will cause the people to give Islam and Muslims more worth and status; Islam will thus be more widely propagated. And if a person commits a forbidden act, we could say that the punishment will be double; the forbidden act itself will be counted and also the fact that people are being carefully watched by the non-muslims, it will further compound onto the sin since the sanctity of Islam was not kept in front of them. Similarly, if a person commits a pleasant act then the rewards will also be double; one set of rewards will be for the action, and the other will be because they followed the Islamic guidelines in this place, where the majority are not followers of such guidelines or beliefs.

### Given that the anniversary of the demise of Imam Khomeini was a few weeks ago, here's what he had to say in regards to the role of Imam in the Islamic world and lessons from his life that we could use today:

Lessons that we could use, as the poem states 'Qefdhoo la ra'ayaka fel hayate mojaheda, innal hayat agheedaton va jahadoo' - "Stand for your belief, and perform jihad by all means including your life, wealth, and speech." Imam's sole



talent was that he deeply cared for Islam, and he worked with sincere intentions, not with boastfulness, only for God. All that he did was for God. Allah (swt) mentions in the Quran: 'Qul innama a'idhukum biwahidatin an taqoomoo lillahi mathna wafurada' - ["Say: "I do admonish you on one point: that ye do stand up before Allah,- (It may be) in pairs, or (it may be) singly"]. You must always act for Allah, be it individually or part of society. Imam, because he was firstly a servant of Allah, secondly he worked for Allah, and thirdly his goal and objective was for Allah, he was able to rally the people behind him, prepare them and ultimately create such a revolution in the world. And in my opinion our revolution is not just limited to Iran. Its breadth encompasses the world, similar to the sun's rays that shine upon all there is, the revolution and its movement's rays shine upon all, enlightening the hearts and souls of the people. InshaAllah it will prepare the setting for the reappearance of Hazrat-e-Mahdi(aj).

### In response to a question about the length of his stay with us and his plans, he mentioned:

I will be here until the end of Ramadhan. The phone number of IEC is available and the people could get my phone number, as well, seeing as many people already have it. In person or via my phone I am at the service of the women, men, youth, businessmen, etc. in all aspects during all hours of the day and night. Just as it is now 4:15 pm, if you contact me at this time in the morning hours, I would still be at your service.

\*\*We would like to thank Br. Ali Abedi who interviewed and translated the interview for us.\*\*

# UPCOMING PROGRAMS

**Birthday of Imam Taqi (A.S)**  
**Thursday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Night of 10<sup>th</sup> Rajab.**

Quran Recitation	7:45 pm
Qaseedas / Youth Presentation	7:50 pm
English Speech by Maulana Hurr Shabbiri	8:15 pm
Namaz-e-Maghrebein	8:45 pm
Multimedia Presentation	9:30 pm
Dua-e-Kumayl	9:40 pm
Tabarruk	10:30 pm
NOTE: Please recite Sura-e-Fateha for the Merhomeen of Syed Javad	

**Wiladat of Imam Ali (A.S)**  
**Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**Night of 13<sup>th</sup> Rajab.**

Quran Recitation	8:30 pm
Qaseedas	8:35 pm
Maghribein Prayers	8:44 pm
Multimedia Presentation	9:30 pm
English Speech	9:40 pm
Tabarruk	10:15 pm
Estimated cost of Program is \$ 300	

**Martyrdom of Hazrat Zainab (AS)**  
**Tuesday, July 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**Night of 15<sup>th</sup> Rajab**

Quran Recitation	7:30 pm
Salam / Youth Presentation	7:40 pm
English Speech by Maulana Hurr Shabbiri	7:50 pm
Noha/Matam	8:30 pm
Namaz-e-Maghrebein	8:44 pm
Multimedia Presentation	9:30 pm
Dua-e-Tawassul	9:40 pm
Tabarruk	10:30 pm

**Esal-e-Sawab Majlis ( Every Thursday)**  
**Thursday, July 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**Night of 17<sup>th</sup> Rajab**

Quran Recitation	8:05 pm
English Speech by Maulana Musharaf Hussaini	8:15 pm
Namaz-e-Maghrebein	8:44 pm
Dua-e-Kumayl	9:30 pm
Noha/Matam	10:15 pm
Tabarruk	10:30 pm
NOTE: Please contact Br. Faisal Rizvi (832-367-8808) / Shah Hussain Jaffery (832-758-9530) to sponsor Majlis for your Marhoomeen.	

**\*Wiladat of Imam Ali (A.S) (Special Program)**  
**Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**Night of 19<sup>th</sup> Rajab.**

Program Starts	6:30 pm
Estimated cost of Program is \$ 2000	

**Shahadat of Imam Al-Jazim (A.S)**  
**Wafat of Hazrat Abu Talib (AS)**  
**Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**Night of 26<sup>th</sup> Rajab.**

Quran Recitation	8:30 pm
Maghribein Prayers	8:41 pm
Salam/Mersiya	9:20 pm
Multimedia Presentation	9:30 pm
English Speech by Maulana Musharraf Hussaini	9:40 pm
Noha/Matam	10:15 pm
Tabarruk	10:30 pm
<b>Estimated cost of Program is \$ 1000</b>	

**\*Besat and Meraj (Special Program)**  
**Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**Night of 27<sup>th</sup> Rajab.**

Quran Recitation	6:00 pm
English Speech	6:05 pm
Quiz Competition	8:15 pm
Maghribein Prayers	8:41 pm
Short Aamal	9:30 pm
Dinner	10:15 pm
<b>Estimated cost of Program is \$ 1500</b>	

**Start of Imam Hussain's Journey**  
**Tuesday, July 21st**  
**28<sup>th</sup> Rajab.**

Quran Recitation	7:30 pm
Salam / Youth Presentation	7:40 pm
English Speech by Maulana Musharraf Hussaini	7:50 pm
Noha/Matam	8:30 pm
Namaz-e-Maghrebein	8:40 pm
Multimedia Presentation	9:30 pm
Dua-e-Tawassul	9:40 pm
Tabarruk	10:15 pm

**\*Wiladat of Imam Hussain (AS) (Special Pogram)**  
**Wiladat of Hazrat Abbas (AS)**  
**Wiladat of Imam Sajjad (AS)**  
**Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**Night of 4<sup>th</sup> Shaaban.**

Program Starts	6:30 pm
<b>Estimated cost of Program is \$ 2000</b>	

**\* Special Program timings may change. Please check your email and refer to our website for updated information.**